

# Rideshare Currents



Volume 2, Issue 3  
Summer 2003

## Gear Up This Summer with WSF's Bicycle Pass

Summer in Washington State—no, it hasn't been legally outlawed yet. In fact, summer is approaching, and for many people, it's a great time to think about incorporating some outdoor physical activity into their day. One way to do this is to bicycle to work.

Washington State Ferries supports this healthy and environmentally friendly habit through their Bicycle Pass Program. Participants pay an annual \$20 fee, but are then exempt from the bicycle surcharge that is collected each time you travel by bike. Currently, the Central Sound bicycle surcharge is one dollar. Bicyclists are required to pay the surcharge fare along with the walk-on fare.

Members reap the rewards of the program after only 10 roundtrips. If you bicycle all summer long, you can save between \$100-\$200, depending on

how long summer is this year. So don't worry, we will have a summer. And, you can make your summer even better this year, by breaking out your bicycle, enjoying the weather and saving money at the same time.

Want to ride your bike, but you work too far away? Join a vanpool. King County Metro and Kitsap Transit vanpools will give you a free bike rack for your van. That way you can ride your bike for part of your commute and ride in the van for the other half.

For more information on the Bicycle Pass Program, visit our website at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/rideshare](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/rideshare) or contact the program manager, Larry Keyes, at (206) 515-3858 or [keyesla@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:keyesla@wsdot.wa.gov).



### Inside this issue:

Free Ride on Kitsap .....	2
Employer Subsidy .....	2
Rideshare Reps .....	3
Commute Cost .....	3
HOV Sound Off .....	4

## Bicycling Resources

Cascade Bicycle Club ([www.cascade.org](http://www.cascade.org)) provide loads of information on bicycling in the Puget Sound area, educational and safety information, area events and commuting tips.



## Kitsap Transit Offers Free Rides During Bremerton Construction Project

Kitsap Transit is currently offering free commute-hour bus rides to and from downtown Bremerton to encourage commuters to avoid the parking and traffic congestion anticipated during the construction of the hotel and convention center. Construction is expected to last until Summer 2004.

Following is a synopsis of the service:

- Kitsap Transit's #15 McWilliams Shuttle and #22 Gateway Express will operate free all hours of service.
- All Kitsap Transit buses departing the West or East Transfer Centers for downtown Bremerton

will be free from the start of service until 8:55am weekdays.

- Kitsap Transit buses scheduled to depart the Bremerton Transportation Center (BTC) weekdays from 3:40pm through 9:00pm will be free to riders boarding at the BTC.
- Subscription service on ACCESS to early morning Bremerton ferries will be free.

For more information, please contact Kitsap Transit at (360) 373-2877.

## Employers Can Subsidize Ferry Passes For Their Workers

The Washington State Ferries' (WSF) Employer Subsidized Pass Program assists employers in offering commute options to their employees.

The Program allows employers to purchase monthly passenger-only ferry passes from WSF and offer them to their employees at a subsidized rate. A minimum \$5.00 employer subsidy is required in order to participate.

Employers may find the pass purchasing process slightly easier, as they can use their company's accounting system, rather than a company credit card. Additionally, the Program allows employers the flexibility of returning any undistributed passes at no additional cost.

As an employee, the program offers cost savings in the following ways:

- 1) It gives you the ability to purchase passes from your employer at a subsidized rate.
- 2) Passes can be used on any route listed below, and may be used anytime throughout the month
- 3) Saves you the time it would take to obtain the pass directly from WSF.

Below are the prices for WSF only passes.

For Puget Pass prices and purchases, visit <http://buypass.metrokc.gov>. For Kitsap pass prices and purchases visit <http://secure.telebyte.com/kitrans/secure>.

WSF-ONLY PASS	2003 PRICE*	2004 PRICE
Central Sound	\$70.20	\$74.00
Fauntleroy/Southworth	\$54.80	\$57.40
Vashon Island	\$45.80	\$48.40
Mukilteo/Clinton	\$42.00	\$44.60
Passenger Only	\$102.20	N/A

*\* 2003 prices will be in effect beginning with the purchase of your June 2003 pass.*

Employers must pay for passes by the 20th of the effective pass month. Additional passes can be ordered during the month if needed. If you have any additional questions about this program or would like more information, please contact WSF at (206) 515-3979.

To submit story ideas or comments, please send them:

### **RIDESHARE CURRENTS**

2911 Second Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98121-1012  
(206) 515-3771  
[cavanmi@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:cavanmi@wsdot.wa.gov)

*Produced by the partnerships of Washington State Ferries, King County Metro, and Kitsap Transit. Photos by Stephen J. Brown and Chris Gendron.*

This information is available in accessible formats on request at 206-684-2046 or TTY 206-689-3413.

# Rideshare Reps Give 'All Hands On Deck' Commuting Help

Each quarter, representatives from Washington State Ferries, King County Metro, Kitsap Transit, and Flexcar ride the ferries, to answer your commute questions and introduce commuters to the wonderful world of ridesharing.

You've probably seen them on board, standing near the galley, sometimes with candy to pass out in a shameless effort to endear themselves to commuters.

During past outreaches, the team offered incentives just for filling out a short Ridematch application. Submitting a Ridematch application enters you into a database that matches commuters with similar schedules and commute patterns. It's a win-win situation. Commuters got the chance to peel \$30 off their next ferry pass purchase, and potentially find a group to share the commute, and save time and money, with.

But, you don't need to fill out a form to talk with a representative. Even if you are just curious about those vanpools you've seen receiving preferential loading on the ferry or in the fast lanes on freeway, and how the program could work for you, it's worth the time away from your card game, book, or bag of galley popcorn.

See the schedule below for your next opportunity to speak with a rideshare representative. Can't wait? Call Julie Paone for rideshare assistance at 206-263-6088 or e-mail [julie.paone@metrokc.gov](mailto:julie.paone@metrokc.gov).

\* Sailing times are approximate, and are subject to change.

Ferry Route	Outreach Date	Sailing Times*
Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth	June 23	3:15–6:45 p.m.
Bainbridge Island/Seattle	June 24	3:50–6:40 p.m.
Bremerton/Seattle	June 26	4:00–7:30 p.m.
Edmonds/Kingston	June 30	3:50–7:00 p.m.



Do you have questions about ridesharing on the ferries?

Send your questions or story ideas to Rideshare Currents. Deadline for the next publication is June 30th. Look forward to hearing from our readers.

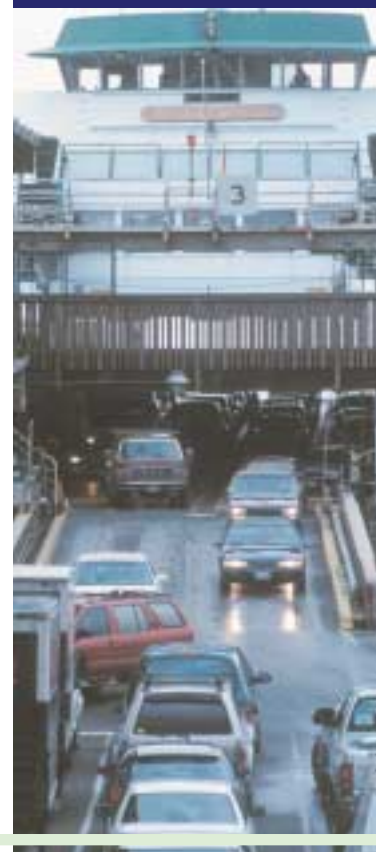
## Know The Cost of Your Commute

Maybe you've been considering a vanpool, but don't know if it's worth your while to join. Well, now you can know how much your commute is costing you. The Smart Moves website has a cool commute calculator that will tell you just that. Visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/smartmoves/truecost.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/smartmoves/truecost.htm) to find out the details of your commute. An example using a 30-mile roundtrip commute is listed below:

(Comparatively, a vanpool rider with the same 30-mile commute can pay as little as \$47 a month for the van, gas, insurance, maintenance and emergency road side assistance, and carpoolers can cut their costs in half.)

	Daily	Monthly	Yearly
Based on a 1999 AAA estimate that it costs on average \$0.421 per mile to run an economy car, your 30 mile commute costs you*:	\$12.63	\$252.60	\$3,031.20
Based on a 1999 AAA estimate that it costs on average \$0.4962 per mile to run a luxury car or sports utility vehicle, your 30 mile commute costs you*:	\$14.89	\$297.72	\$3,572.64
An average car produces 0.0077 pounds of Hydrocarbons per mile. You produce this much Hydrocarbon on your 30 mile commute:	0.231 lbs.	4.62 lbs.	55.44 lbs.
An average car produces 0.055 pounds of Carbon Monoxide per mile. You produce this much Carbon Monoxide on your 30 mile commute:	1.65 lbs.	33 lbs.	396 lbs.
An average car produces 0.0033 pounds of Nitrogen Oxides per mile. You produce this much Nitrogen Oxides on your 30 mile commute:	0.099 lbs.	1.98 lbs.	23.76 lbs.
An average car produces 1 pound of Carbon Dioxide per mile. You produce this much Carbon Dioxide on your 30 mile commute:	30 lbs.	600 lbs.	7,200 lbs.

\* The emission factors used here come from standard EPA emission models. They assume an average mix of properly maintained cars and trucks on the road in 1995, operating on typical gasoline in normal summer weather. Emissions may be higher in very hot or very cold weather.







## Currents Trivia

*Commuter News on  
Alternative Vehicles:*

*Single occupancy,  
alternative commuter  
vehicles will be charged the  
motorcycle fare when  
traveling with WSF. This  
means they will pay the  
motorcycle fare, and any  
charges applicable to  
oversized motorcycles when  
applicable.*

# Commuter Sound-Off: Your Opinion on 'HOT' Lanes

Rideshare Currents would like to know what you think about the new and proposed legislation concerning High Occupancy Vehicle lanes. Send in your comments to Rideshare Currents editor, Michelle Cavanaugh by e-mail to [cavanmi@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:cavanmi@wsdot.wa.gov) or write to WSF, 2911 Second Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121-1012. (See article below.)

The Washington State Transportation Commission recently voted to open High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to general traffic during off-peak hours (7 p.m. – 5 a.m.) starting this summer.

Highways that will be affected are SR 167, I-405, SR 520, and I-90 (east of I-405). HOV lanes on I-5 will continue to be closed to single occupancy vehicles 24-hours a day. Fortunately, this new HOV policy should affect few of our vanpools.

In addition, the Commission is exploring converting some of the region's HOV lanes into High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes. HOT lanes will allow single occupancy vehicles to pay a toll of less than \$45 a month to use the HOV lanes during mid-day off-peak hours.

While SB 5605 allows WSDOT to convert any existing HOV lane into a HOT lane, the Commission is concentrating on HOV lanes on the eastside of Lake Washington where the HOV lanes can offer added capacity to the crowded highways.

In a press release by the Washington State Department of Transportation, Transportation Secretary Doug MacDonald said that the changes to the HOV lanes "are meant to improve conditions for drivers in all lanes by maximizing available capacity as well as maintaining speed and reliability for transit, vanpools and carpoolers."

For more information on HOT lanes and HOV lanes, including usage and Federal HOV lane guidance, visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/hov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/hov).

*The above article is from "Vanpool Voices," produced by King County Metro.*

